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TSAC Welcomes New Senior Associate Executive Director

When TSAC began searching for candidates to fill the newly-named position of Senior Associate Executive Director, the goal was to find a person who had experience in multiple key areas. The new position was created to encompass the job responsibilities of a Staff Attorney as well as to oversee the day-to-day functions in the Business Affairs Department.

Peter Abernathy, the person selected for the position, began work at TSAC on August 1 and said he is excited about the opportunity to work in the higher education field.

"I am looking forward to getting involved in financial aid on a daily basis," he said. "TSAC has given me a great opportunity to use my legal education while being more directly involved in higher education."

Prior to his time at TSAC, Peter was employed at the Department of Finance and Administration for 12 years. During his time at F&A, he worked with higher education budgets, including TSAC, as well as represented the F&A department on the TSAC Board of Directors.

He has received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Tennessee, a Master's degree in Public Administration from North Carolina

State University, and a Juris Doctorate from Nashville School of Law.



On a personal note, Peter is married and has three daughters. He enjoys spending time with his family, doing yard work, and reading.

Originally from Elkhart, IN, Peter currently resides with his family in Gallatin, TN.

Comments from Peter:

"I am looking forward to being more directly involved in higher education issues and specifically being a part of Tennessee's effort to promote increased attendance in our higher education institutions."

UPCOMING EVENTS & CONFERENCES

- 9/18/2008
TSAC Board of Directors Meeting
1:00 p.m.
State Capitol
Nashville, TN
- 10/12/2008-10/14/2008
TASFAA Fall Conference
Nashville, TN

Outreach Staff Begins New Chapter for Upcoming Academic Year

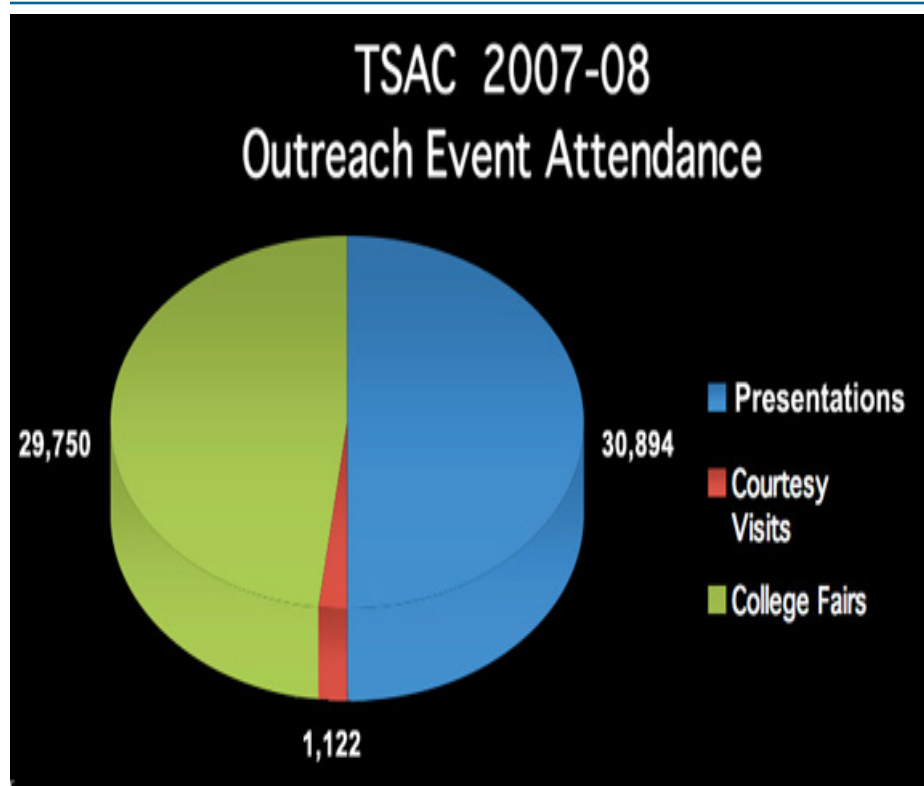
Closing the book on one successful year only means that a new year has already begun. Although the 2007-08 academic year ended June 30, the Outreach staff at TSAC has already made plans for the upcoming year to visit the 1,500 middle schools and high schools throughout the 95 counties in the State of Tennessee. In addition, there have been a number of college access and financial aid presentations scheduled during August and September.

During the 2007-08 academic year, the Outreach staff at TSAC communicated with 60,000 Tennesseans, which was a 33 percent increase from the previous academic year. The

Outreach staff also experienced a 45 percent increase in the number of college fairs they were able to attend as well as a 49 percent increase in the number of college access and financial aid presentations they were able to conduct.

August marks the beginning of a new school year for a majority of middle schools and high schools in the State of Tennessee. TSAC has already committed to attend a number of college fairs across the State for the upcoming Fall travel season. The dates for the college fairs that TSAC will be attending during the month of September are listed on page 3.

The graph below displays the Outreach Event Attendance for TSAC in 2007-08.



September 2008 TSAC College Fair Schedule

Sept. 2 WCA- Johnson City College Fair
Sept. 2 Warren Co. College Fair
Sept. 3 Tusculum College Fair
Sept. 3 Perry County College Fair
Sept. 4 Cherokee HS College Fair
Sept. 4 Daniel Boone HS College
Sept. 4 Lawrence Countywide College Fair
Sept. 5 Sullivan East HS College Fair
Sept. 5 Giles Countywide College Fair
Sept. 5 Hardin County HS College Fair
Sept. 8 Hickman County HS College Fair
Sept. 8 Lewis Countywide College Fair
Sept. 8 Cordova HS College Fair
Sept. 8 Decatur Riverside HS College Fair
Sept. 8 Scotts Hill HS College Fair
Sept. 9 Maury Countywide College Fair
Sept. 9 Marshall County HS College Fair
Sept. 9 McNairy County College Fair
Sept. 9 Lexington HS College Fair
Sept. 9 Collierville HS College Fair
Sept. 10 Lincoln County HS College Fair
Sept. 10 Fayette Academy College Fair
Sept. 11 Motlow St. Area Wide College Fair
Sept. 11 Middleton HS College Fair
Sept. 11 Camden Central HS College Fair
Sept. 12 Franklin County HS College Fair
Sept. 12 Haywood HS College Fair
Sept. 15 Whitwell HS College Fair
Sept. 15 Marion County College Fair

Sept. 15 Dyersburg HS College Fair
Sept. 15 Obion Co. Central HS College Fair
Sept. 15 Union City HS College Fair
Sept. 16 TN Wesleyan College Fair
Sept. 16 Bradley Countywide College Fair
Sept. 16 Gibson Countywide College Fair
Sept. 16 Henry County HS College Fair
Sept. 17 Notre Dame HS College Fair
Sept. 18 Crocket HS College Fair
Sept. 18 LCA College Fair
Sept. 18 Halls HS College Fair Lauderdale Co.
Sept. 18 Ripley HS College Fair
Sept. 19 LCA College Fair
Sept. 22 Wilson County College Fair
Sept. 23 Houston County HS College Fair
Sept. 23 Robertson County College Fair
Sept. 24 Dickson County HS College Fair
Sept. 24 Creekwood HS College Fair
Sept. 24 Cheatham County College Fair
Sept. 25 Stewart County College Fair
Sept. 25 Harpeth HS College Fair
Sept. 26 Humphreys County College Fair
Sept. 29 LMU College Fair
Sept. 29 Montgomery County College Fair
Sept. 30 Clinton HS College Fair
Sept. 30 Anderson County HS College Fair
Sept. 30 Father Ryan HS College Fair
Sept. 30 Metro Nashville College Fair



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2008-09 Student Board Member Appointed

Governor Phil Bredesen recently appointed La-Nikqua Thomas to serve as the 2008-09 Student Board Member for the TSAC Board of Directors. Currently a student at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN, La-Nikqua officially began her term July 1.

Selected from a pool of many candidates, La-Nikqua was recommended for the position by Dr. Wayne Riley, President of Meharry Medical College. Each year a new Student Board Member is appointed after receiving a recommendation from the president of the university or college the student attends.

La-Nikqua said she is excited about her new role as the Student Board Member and plans to be involved throughout the year.

"I hope to use my student government experience to help aid the Board to be productive and diligent," she said. "I am passionate about helping Tennessee residents further their education. Being a member of the Board is a reward in itself, but knowing that I could possibly play a role in helping others achieve their goals will definitely be fulfilling."

La-Nikqua, originally from Pontiac, Michigan, has lived in Nashville for the majority of her life. She decided to attend Meharry Medical College as a result of the small student-to-teacher ratio and the benefit of spending more time with her immediate family.

On a personal note, La-Nikqua enjoys spending time with family and friends, watching movies, singing, and supporting her favorite NBA basketball team, the Detroit Pistons. She said her determination and passion are traits that make her unique to most people. Upon graduation from Meharry Medical College in May 2009, La-Nikqua plans to pursue a career as a physician in Internal Medicine.

TSAC Works with Comptroller's Office On New Loan Provisions

The legislative session ended in May and two provision requirements were passed in regard to loan practices and disclosure activities. TSAC has been working closely with the State of Tennessee Comptroller's Office to determine what activities are necessary in order to comply with the provisions. The language in the amendment requires two actions.

First, the Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury is scheduled to make a report to the General Assembly in February 2009. The report will consist of information that the office has gathered regarding current student loan practices within the state. Over the next few months, the Comptroller of the Treasury office could possibly be contacting schools in order to survey their practices. Staff members in the Comptroller's office have met with TSAC representatives to determine where to begin in this assigned task.

Second, TSAC has been charged to provide a form for schools to use in the disclosure of loans to students. In the first meeting between TSAC and the Comptroller's Office, TSAC stated that a procedure was already in place through the federal government where notices of loan guarantees are sent to lenders and schools for distribution to students. Action has not been taken on the clause at the present time, but TSAC will notify schools in the event of any changes that take place.

At this point, schools are not required to do anything different than what they have done in the past. As TSAC continues to work with the Comptroller's Office, we will keep schools aware of any developments that may require action from schools. If there are any new requirements of schools that arise as a result of the legislation, they will not be in effect until July 1, 2009.

For questions or comments,

visit TSAC's website at

www.CollegePaysTN.com



Meet Felicia Orr: TSAC's Outreach Specialist for West Tennessee

When Felicia Orr, TSAC's Outreach Specialist for West Tennessee, began work at TSAC, she was prepared to hit the ground running. Not only was she excited about her new job, she was also excited about her new location. As a native of West Tennessee, Felicia was thrilled to be working in the area where she grew up.

Her role at TSAC as an Outreach Specialist involves educating various college's financial aid and admissions offices as well as students throughout West Tennessee on the financial aid opportunities provided through the State of Tennessee.

Felicia received her education from Freed-Hardeman University where she obtained a Bachelor of Science degree with an emphasis in Broadcasting and Public Relations. Later this year, she will receive a Master of Science degree in Conflict Management from Sullivan University.

Prior to her time at TSAC, she was employed at Sullivan University as a regional representative and was also employed in the Admissions Department at Crichton College.



On a personal note, Felicia is the oldest of four children. She has two brothers, James and Jason, as well as one sister named Karita. She considers her parents to be her greatest motivators.

In her spare time, Felicia enjoys exercising, scrapbooking, and participating in community events. She also strives to volunteer at local organizations and performs mission work throughout the year.

Although there are many highlights to her job, Felicia considers her interaction with students to be the most enjoyable part.

"My favorite part about working at TSAC is assisting students in fulfilling their dream to attend college," she said. "Having an educated society is essential to the continuing economic growth and development of the State of Tennessee and our society."

Felicia currently serves five counties in West Tennessee and assists 251 schools in her outreach efforts at TSAC.

Comments from Felicia:

Working for TSAC is a dream come true. Growing up, I always enjoyed talking and helping people. TSAC has given me the opportunity to do both. I have the opportunity to present vital information to parents and students that might be unaware of the opportunities available to them through the State of Tennessee. It is my desire to see that students know that assistance is available to help them to attend college. Being in a position to have a positive impact on the lives of others is the most important opportunity a person can have.